

Kentucky Environmental Education Council

Winter Meeting January 28, 2004

Berry Hill Mansion

Frankfort, KY

Minutes of the Meeting

Members Present: Horace Brown, Robin Chandler, Wade Helm, Jeff Hohman, Yvonne Meichtry, Evelyn Morgan

Members not present: Frances Carter, Kurt Mason, Greg Higdon

Staff present: Jane Eller, John LeFevre

Mr. Brown, the Council Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Since there was a quorum, the minutes from the prior meeting, held on October 23, 2003, were approved.

Council Nominations

Ms. Eller requested new officer nominations for the Council. Evelyn Morgan nominated Horace Brown for Chair and Kurt Mason for Vice Chair. Jeff Hohman seconded the motion. All Council members present were in favor of the proposed new nominations so both motions carried and Mr. Brown was elected as Chair and Mr. Mason as Vice Chair of the Council.

Heritage Land Trust Fund Update

Mr. Brown reported on current operations of the Heritage Land Trust Fund (through which the Council is funded.) The nature plates are selling well, especially the new butterfly plate. Mr. Brown also said that, to date, the Trust fund has been used to purchase 21,000 acres in 57 counties across the state.

HB 174 & MOA Agreements

HB 174 created the PRIDE fund, which was established to clean up abandoned land fill sites across the state. Interest on that fund (up to \$1 million a year) is to be used by the Council to implement that portion of the master plan that deals with the University Centers. Ms. Eller told the Council that she did not yet know whether or not the interest on the account would reach \$1 million in FY 2004. For FY 2003 the total is \$38,000. Mr. Brown reiterated that a fee of 7.5% be charged by the KEEC for administering the grant. This had been discussed at a previous meeting and has also been discussed and agreed upon by the KUPPE members.

Ms. Eller said that she hoped these first funds from HB 174 to the universities (each university center will get \$5,000) would be used to create baseline data for EE through a needs assessment. There was a great deal of discussion about this. Dr. Meichtry expressed reservations about requiring the universities to all do the same activity, even though gathering state wide data is a good goal. After more discussion, Mr. Helm made a motion to focus the MOA to the universities on creating the needs assessment. Ms. Chandler seconded the motion. All Council members present were in favor. Motion passed.

Current agency projects

Ms. Eller handed out and reviewed a draft copy of the Outdoor Classroom Guide with the Council members. She also mentioned that the guide was in its final stages and should be ready for the public shortly.

Ms. Eller also stated that the Second Annual Youth Environmental Summit was scheduled for March 21 and 22 and invited Council members to attend. She also mentioned that the Summit is a very great deal of work for the staff and, though it is a wonderful project, it only reaches about 200 students. Thus she questions if it is worth the time and money we are putting into it. She said she would like to review this after the Summit this year.

Ms. Eller also told Council members that the new Environmental Education Endorsement has been approved and at least a few universities hope to begin offering it within a year or so. She also reviewed the new Nonformal Environmental Education Certification Program set to begin on March 26, 2004 at Lake Cumberland. She said the first of the four workshops is scheduled for March 26-28 and the second for April 16-18 at Rough River State Park. There will be two more workshops in the fall as well as an independent study going on throughout the year. Invitations have been sent to agencies and organization that may want to send participants. She said she would be able to report on progress at the next Council meeting.

Finally, Ms. Eller said Council staff is working with staff from KDE to recruit schools for a workshop on using the Environment as an Integrating Context for Learning. Council members may recall that this is the school improvement strategy created by the State Education and Environment Roundtable. There is an EIC Demonstration School Network nationwide now and she has been hoping to have Kentucky be part of this network.

Ms. Eller asked Council members if there were questions about other current projects. There being none, and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Hohman suggested that East Kentucky Power would be willing to host a future meeting perhaps taking Council members on site to see some of the environmental work they do. Council staff will follow up on this offer.
Next meeting is Thursday April 28, 2004. Place TBA.

Approved
Wm. Horace Brown, Chair

Date

Respectfully Submitted
Jane W. Eller
Executive Director

Date